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<u>CLAIM AMENDMENTS</u>

1. (currently amended) A business method for quantifying royalty owner rights, the method including a computerized system performing the substantially asynchronous transactional steps of:

one) maintaining a registry of a plurality of users;

two) maintaining a database of materials provided by the system to users of the plurality of users, the users paying subscription fees for access to the database;

three) using a substantially packet-based protocol over a distributed data-communications topology, communicating with a user of the plurality of users,

    a)   from the user, accepting a report of the user's prior use of materials provided by the system, the report being a sample of the prior use by the plurality of users, and

    b)   from data in the report, statistically convoluting an updated metric of use into respective materials records in the database; and

four) from the database computing a quantification of royalty owner rights for at least one of the respective materials, said quantification serving to divide the <u>collective</u> subscription fees of the plurality of users based on the updated metric.

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2. (original) The method according to claim 1 wherein maintaining a database of materials provided includes providing the materials to the respective users, and the providing is by downloading via a distributed data-communications topology.

3. (original) The method according to claim 2 wherein the provided materials include a user-computer executable program for facilitating the user maintaining a report for subsequent reporting to the computer system.

4. (original) The method according to claim 2 wherein the provided materials include data for reproduction as audio contents.

5. (original) The method according to claim 2 wherein the provided materials include data for reproduction as visual contents.

6. (original) The method according to claim 2 wherein the provided materials include data for execution as computer software.

7. (original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the communicating with the user includes accepting a request for downloading a plurality of substantially new materials.

8. (previously amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein accepting a report of the

user's prior use includes an accounting of use since a most recent prior accepting from the

user of a report of the user's prior use.

9. (previously amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein accepting a report of the

user's prior use includes an accounting of cumulative use, substantially since becoming a

user.

10. (previously amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein accepting a report of the

user's prior use includes an accounting of the user's recent use during a predetermined

proximate prior time interval.

11. (original) The method according to claim 1 wherein maintaining a registry includes a

respective profile for each user of a preponderance of the users in the registry.

12. (original) The method according to claim 11 wherein convoluting includes correlating the

updated metric with the respective user profile.

13. (original) The method according to claim 1 wherein computing includes a predetermined

contractual-based apportioning of royalty owner rights for reported use of respective

materials by the user.

14. (previously amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein computing includes a

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predetermined contractual-based apportioning of royalty owner rights for reported use of

respective materials by the plurality of users.

15. (original) The method according to claim 14 wherein apportioning is extrapolated to

represent use by the entire plurality of users.

16. (canceled) An article of manufacture including a computer usable medium having computer

readable program code embodied therein for Quantifying Royalty Owner Rights, the

computer readable program code in said article of manufacture including:

One) computer readable program code for causing a user computer to accept a download of

materials from a remote computerized system;

Two) computer readable program code for causing the user computer to maintain a ledger of

use of the downloaded materials; and

Three)computer readable program code for causing the user computer to upload, to the

remote computer system, a report including sums maintained in the ledger.

17. (canceled) The article of manufacture according to claim 16 wherein the downloaded

materials include computer software.

18.(canceled) The article of manufacture according to claim 16 wherein the downloaded

materials include data that can be converted into audio contents.

19.(canceled) The article of manufacture according to claim 16 wherein the downloaded

materials include data that can be converted into visual contents.

20.(currently amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a

program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for quantifying

royalty owner rights, said method including a computerized system performing the

substantially asynchronous transactional steps of:

one) maintaining a registry of a plurality of users;

two) maintaining a database of materials provided by the system to users of the plurality of

users, the users paying subscription fees for access to the database;

three) using a substantial packet-based protocol over a distributed data-communications

topology, communicating with a user of the plurality of users,

a)   from the user, accepting a report of the user's prior use of materials provided by

the system, the report being a sample of the prior use by the plurality of users, and

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       b)   from data in the report, statistically convoluting an updated metric of use into

            respective materials records in the database; and

four) from the database computing a quantification of royalty owner rights for at least one of

       the respective materials, said quantification serving to divide the <u>collective</u> subscription

       fees of the plurality of users based on the updated metric.